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Additions of new outdoor recreation lands as proposed in President Kennedy's conservation message to Congress will assure protection of critical habitat areas and at the same time extend hunting opportunities, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said in an address March 9 before the National Wildlife Federation in Denver, Colorado.

Seven of the 12 currently active proposals for new areas are national seashores or lakeshore, and the Department has made it clear that, where hunting has been a significant use of these areas, it will be recognized and continued as a desirable recreation use, Secretary Udall said.

"The coming years will see establishment of a number of national recreation areas--at Federal water development projects--and at other areas where the primary national interest is in intensive public recreation use," he said. "Unless there is a compelling reason to the contrary, hunting will continue to be permitted on national recreation areas."

Secretary Udall said that he believed that much of the understandable concern of State game administrators about hunting in park areas can be traced to misunderstandings about the acreage which it is proposed to acquire as national parks and monuments.

"Actually," he said, "the National Park Service program for the 1960's prepared for me in developing the Land Conservation Fund proposal calls for the addition of new areas totaling just over 4,300,000 acres. A substantial part of that acreage is for national seashore and national recreation areas in which hunting is far more likely to be permitted than banned.

"When you consider that public hunting opportunities presently available at Point Reyes, Sleeping Bear, and other National Seashores, and at such potential National Recreation Areas as Tocks Island in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and Between-the-Rivers in Kentucky and Tennessee, will be gradually diminished through

posting of private property as pressures mount over the years, I believe it is clear that over the long haul hunting opportunities will actually be extended by the total National Park Service acquisition program.

"Nonetheless, the matter has been a subject of controversy long enough, in my opinion; and I am therefore asking a distinguished group of citizens representative of park and wildlife interests and of the general public to study the matter, and to give me recommendations which I hope will provide the basis for a solution acceptable to all concerned. I will announce the membership of this group within the next few weeks."

"In the meantime, I ask--as I have asked before--that both sides in the National Park hunting issue refrain from demanding a far-reaching, rigid decision until the study is completed and all the facts are in. By studying each area individually, I believe we can make reasoned determinations on the uses to be permitted in each area--including hunting--that will yield the greatest returns to the public.

"If we can resolve the wasting controversies that divide us, agree on a philosophy and the broad outlines of a program, I am convinced we can win the battle for a decent outdoor heritage for our people."

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